

Washington, DC – Representatives Betty Sutton (D-OH), Tim Ryan (D-OH), Russ Carnahan (D-MO) and John Boccieri (D-OH) spoke out strongly against the recent announcements by automakers GM and Chrysler that the companies will close plants in the U.S. while expanding operations overseas. GM's restructuring plan calls for a 98 percent increase in the number of vehicles imported from Mexico, Japan and China, while Chrysler misrepresented its plans by announcing nationwide plant closings after briefing Members of Congress, United Auto Workers and others that the plants would remain open.

After sending a letter to the CEOs of both corporations, Representatives Betty Sutton (D-OH) and Tim Ryan (D-OH) released the following joint statement:

"The decision to lay off American workers while expanding opportunities abroad is extremely disturbing to those of us who have worked hard to save these vital manufacturing jobs. United Auto Workers have made extraordinary concessions to help these companies stay afloat. These are dedicated, hardworking Americans, not simply a bottom line.

"Further, the recent decisions by GM and Chrysler to close thousands of dealerships across the country compound the burden on hardworking families and hurt our local communities. We believe their sudden, across-the-board decisions will hurt good franchises and needlessly cut jobs."

“When American taxpayer dollars are provided to help our domestic automakers, there is an obligation to our workers. We must hold these companies accountable to hold up their end of that bargain and protect our working families and communities.”